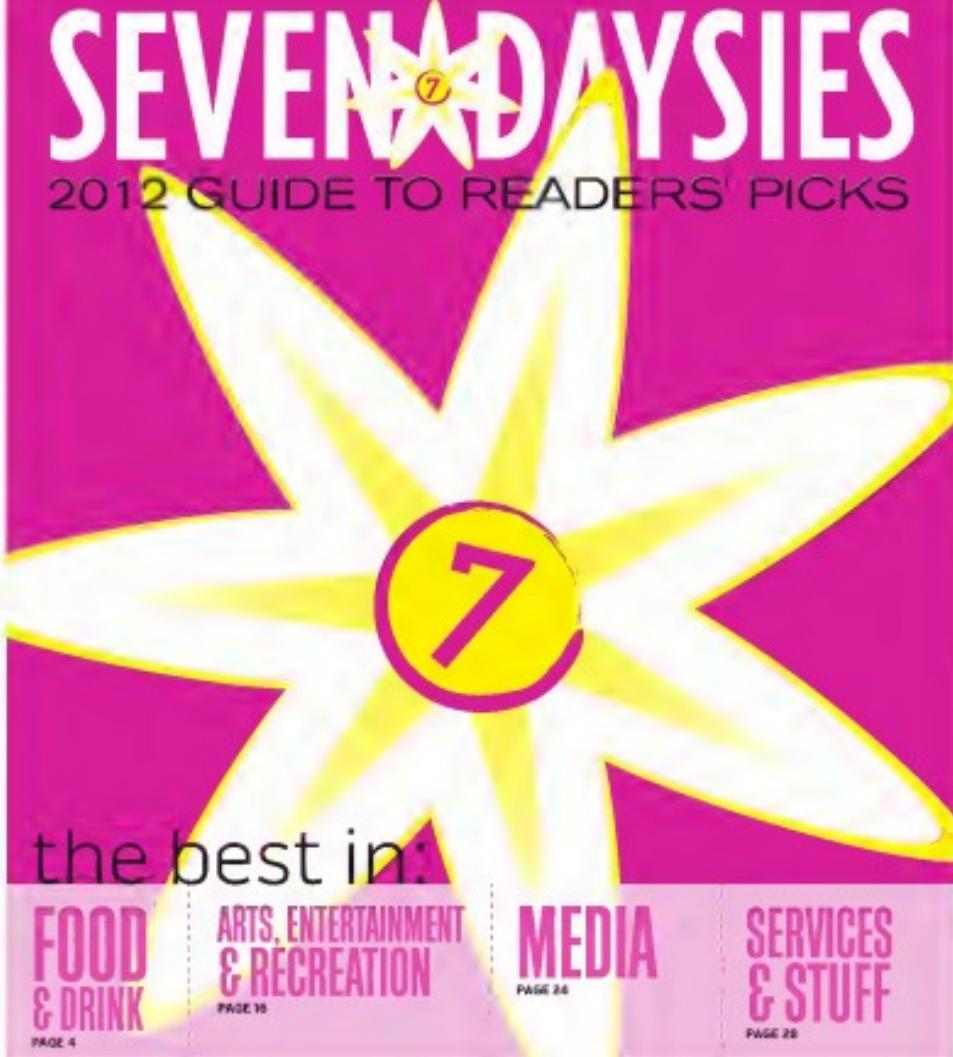


SEVEN⁷DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS



7

the best in:

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& DRINK**

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& RECREATION**

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& STUFF**

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SEVEN DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS



Pictured, from top: Burger Barn, The Inn at Shambles Farms, Garret Ferrer, Kirby Lyons, Mike Lemos.

Note: Categories in pink are spotlighted.

Soaring rated folks about their year's澹nes results. After counting all 3,000 ballots, we noticed some strange new winners. Don't get us wrong — there's nothing we love more than dishing out new D systems, but these were surprising. We'd never heard of **LUGGIO HAIR FOR MEN** in Burlington, which had astoundingly snagged the澹ne for best hair salon. And we love the former **PARROTT'S SOURCEFIRE GALLERY**, but were shocked to find that it had rated in more ways than Burlington's **PCA CENTER**, the perennial winner of best art gallery.

Still on high alert from a bloodsoaking weekend during our Best of the Seven Pet Photo Contest last spring, our intrepid deputy online editor Tyler Marshall combed over the澹nes results. There again, he uncovered 458 identical ballots — a sure sign of a cheater.

So we did a recount.

Many longtime winners retained their positions at the top, including **PIPER**, the PCA Center, **CHEESE TRADERS & WINE SELLERS**, **THE EDGE**, **DANBURY PARK**, **SWEET LADY JANE** and **ECCO CLOTHES FOR WOMEN & MEN**. Congrats to those reliable澹nesies!

But we are excited to honor a whole new crop of澹ne winners this year.

In a Burlington-centric contest, we're always thrilled to recognize winners outside Chittenden County — so we didn't in every category, just where the number of votes was significant. This year, Waterbury's **GREEN MOUNTAIN CAMERA** and Barre's **KODAK CAMERA & VIDEO** came in tied and third, respectively, handily knocking down South Burlington's **PHOTOGRAPHON** — **LEDDY CAMERA CENTER** on Church Street held onto the gold medal Chittenden County.

Parents go bananas for the **PUMPKIN HOUSE INDOOR WATERPARK AT JAM PEEK**, which took home a new澹ne for best day trip with the kids. And **CARLINGTON GARAGE** blew away the competition in another new category, best place for car repairs.

When it comes to free Wi-Fi hot spots, nothing compares to **STARBUCKS**, where wi-fi surfers can raise a single cup of coffee for hours without guilt. But locals do love their hometown establishments, such as **CROW ROCKING**, which once again narrowly edged out **RABINS & NORRIS**.

Confectioner **MATTHEW TWICE** stood up against reigning champs **RUSTY GENIES** and **JEFF LEVITT**.

Many voters avoided really bad and about the concept of drinking alone. When asked about the best place to do it, one person wrote, "In my kitchen with the lights off." Another responded somewhat reasonably (but we got the drift), "A bottle full of my tears." Most agreed that home is the best place for solo drinking, but the rest threw their votes in for Burlington dive the **OTHER PLACE**.

After reading voters' responses to the biggest-boger category, we felt kind of bad installing it as you do. We thought the category was funny — and example is, because, as a few voters noted, nobody self-identifies as a booger. We were smitten, though, at your collective distaste for all things boogerific.

As bittersweeting that **BEH SAILL**, photographer and editor of Thread Magazine, will carry the title with dignity and good humor. Stelle beat out **CHARLES "CHICKY" WINKWELD** — whose Facebook followers, for their need, is tops longew — despite plans to let his Facebook friends take over for him. Talk about reverse psychology. Other *Booger* contestants included **OAG MAP**, which several voters referred to as "the original booger," and **SEN. KERNIE SAMBERS**.

The statue also made an appearance in another new category, best hair on a local personality, but that澹ne ultimately went to the observant-sounding will mama of Point DJ **MIKE LEMOS**. We're proud to say that a few of our own — including *Indie* co-editor **PAMELA PELETIER** and music editor **CARIN ROLLER** — pulled in votes for best hair.

Finally, to that oleum bullet staffer: We wish we knew who you are. If we did, you better believe well be awarding you the first ever *Stinky Days of Shame*. Cheering is lame, folks. Here's to the winners, new and old, who earned by their Daysies fair and square.

MEGAN JAMES





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FOOD & DRINK

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

We weren't surprised to hear that Seven Days readers still love AMERICAN FLATIRON for pizza, PENN CLIFF CAFE for breakfast, A DOUBLE PERL for Asian fare, the FARMHOUSE TAVERN for burgers and HAMBURGERS for baked goods. Let's not forget our taste for home cooking. The Old North End's laid-back, laid-offering PIZZA'S PLACE, which opened last summer, is your favorite non-chain ethnic restaurant. The one for best new restaurant was festive (read: fun) at MAGELLANIC, WOODEN SPOON BISTRO, PIZZERIA VERTU, STUDIO SANDWICHES and JIN CHINESE, among others, opened this past year. Yet it was EL GATO CANTINA that included our EL COSTILLO as your favorite new restaurant in Chittenden County. And El Gato joined El Compy as your favorite local Mexican/Tamale supernumerary. Never underestimate the power of Mexican grilled corn and jalapeño-infused margaritas to wet hearts and minds.

For a good year that only began, a few newish/Waterbury's FRESHMEN PID put up a robust fight, earning a third overall spot as new restaurant and impossible Chittenden County.

Road trips made a first-time appearance in our survey, but newcomer HESSLY LOVINS CO. and big r' n' truck couldn't worst the price fixers on perennial street-eats favorite HONG'S CHINESE DUMPLINGS. Outside of Chittenden County, you're losing on the burgers, fries and fried seafood from the SAMBLES TRACK IN, Burne. A move from brick-and-mortar to mobile can be a sunny case.

In town, A SINGLE PERL bowed last year's winner LEILOHO'S RESTAURANT as your favorite place to eat out on a nice evening, suggesting that Asian food has waded far back in an establishment's lifetime. Outside of Chittenden County you still love those plates of crispy calamari and goat-cheese drizzled logs at Waterbury's MEN OF THE WORLD AT THE GRIST MILL.

String up lanterns, sharpen up your drink mix, too. In a category that gets more competitive every year, readers think BOWDEN VALLEY WINERY bottles Vermont's best wine — it edged out last year's winner, SHELBURNE VINEYARD, by just 14 votes. And as a nod to the Vermont Brew Bracket, SWITZERBACK BREWERY is still your favorite craft brewery, with THE ALCHEMIST (maker of Heady Topper and Calib) running a surprisingly distant second.

Our growing crop of microdistilleries inspired a new category this year, best Vermont spirit. WHISTLEJACK STRAIGHT RYE WHISKEY handily took first place, though CALLECHERA SPIRITS and its honey-based Barr Hill gin and vodka were right behind.

The last two, since THREE MILES in Chittenden County's a venue that's great for many, while THREE PEAK TAVERN will rock as the best place to drink outside of the state's most populous county. The last place to drink alone? Besides three votes each for "under a bridge" and "in y backroom," you'll apparently find company there and there at THE OTHER PLACE — or, as Burlingtonians know it, the O.P.

CORIN HERSCHE



Best bar Three Needs

We imagined the best of Pennsylvania in Burlington, but the reincarnation of its Pearl Street space is a different guide. This spring, The Pearl Street had its grand opening in this sprawling venue with wood tables, fireball and piano guitars. The result is a showy, very showy bar with a spunkier vibe than a resident glock, to have [just one] bartender. One thing is still missing, though: their world's own beer.

SEVEN DAYS: So when will you start making beer again?
GLENNA WALTERS, OWNER: We'll hopefully be back by the middle of '13. We have equipment coming from Europe, and we'll do the install over the winter or spring of next year. It will go where the rock-bottom is. It's going to be a larger brewery but we'll keep the brews the same: continental lagers and Belgian-style ales mostly. What kind of projects are for the most? Probably Chocolate Thunder Pilsner.

CORIN HERSCHE

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Thanks again, Seven Days awesome neighbors who live, work, and play near us! Recreational, Tailored Friday dinners, bread like hers, and everyone who collects the bakery and makes it so much fun. It's been another amazing year!

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FOOD & DRINK



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Best restaurant to take the kids

Al's French Frys

This somewhere-long-fast-food joint may have picked up a James Beard Award and a 2010 best-of poll from kids who gobble up burgers and never let the engine red boosters catch glue. Red French seems to have changed about the vibe since the TMDs when Al's were just an option on fast-food drive-thru menus. Owner **LISA RENDA/HIRSCH** rates the place recently each year just barely — \$1.60 still buys you a cheeseburger or a cup of crispy, brown fries.

SEVEN DAYS: Why do you think Al's is such a family magnet?

LISA RENDA/HIRSCH: Partly because we're a family-run business. We've got three brothers in the business. I've got a son, I've got nephews. I've got a sister-in-law. I think we understand family pretty well! Al's is old school. You can see wheels going when we cook the food, it's a stage. And lots love the extremes: the chicken strips, the corn dogs and the maltesers, the playground

SEVEN DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Best restaurant, if you're paying

- [W] American Flatbread
[RU] Tiny Thai Restaurant

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Sarducci's
[RU] Skinny Pancake

Best restaurant, if they're paying

- [W] A Single Petal
[RU] Leung's Bistro

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Hen of the Woods at the Guest Mill
[RU] Starry Night Cafe

Best new restaurant

- [W] El Gato Cantina
[RU] El Contigo

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Prohibition Pig
[RU] Mad Taco

Best breakfast/brunch

- [W] Penny Cluse Cafe
[RU] Shakers Bistro

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Kismet
[RU] Wayside Restaurant & Bakery

Best to-go lunch

- [W] City Market/Oneida River Co-op
[RU] Al's French Frys

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Mad Taco
[RU] Pinky's on State

Best Asian restaurant

- [W] A Single Petal
[RU] Tiny Thai Restaurant

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Royal Orchid Thai Restaurant
[RU] Ocha Thai Restaurant

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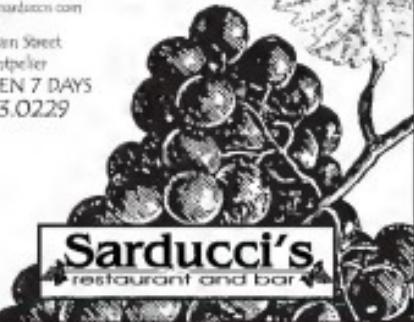
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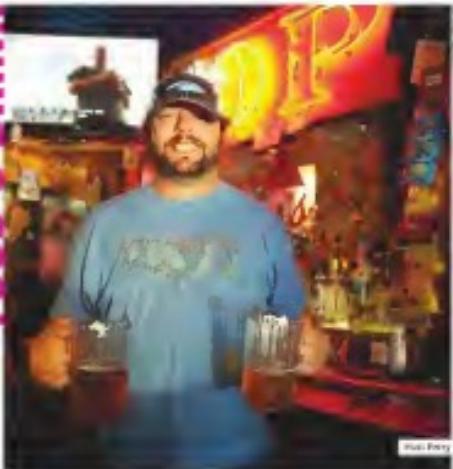
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FOOD & DRINK



Matt Perry

Best place to drink alone

The Other Place

Burlington has no shortage of dimly lit, seedy watering holes in which to drown your sorrows. But the Other Place—or the D.P., as most locals know it—stands as the crown jewel of Burlington's dive bars. Sometimes you wanna go where everybody knows your name... and leaves you the hell alone. In that case, look no further.

SEVEN DAYS: If the staff and regulars at the D.P. were the cast of 'Cheers,' who would be whom?

MATT PERRY (BARTENDER): I am definitely Sam ("Mayday") Malone, as I always wanted to be. I'm the young pup, so this Woody (Cosby) the bistro, Carla, Serafin, been there before, so that's Diane, I guess. Sometimes Cosmo and I look around and decimal that the D.P. is the weird opposite of 'Cheers,' even so that's funny.

JASON COOLEY (BARTENDER): Also pretty sure that Fraiser would get his ass kicked around here.

DAN BULLIS

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**DAILY
Planet**

SEVEN DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Best Mexican/Latin restaurant

- [W] El Gato Cantina
- [R] El Cortijo

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Mad Taco
- [R] Fritella Taqueria & Grill

Best ethnic restaurant (non-Asian)

- [W] Farah's Place
- [R] Duna! (Dundee)

Restaurant with the best vegetarian fare

- [W] A Singh's Pebble
- [R] Zabby & Elf's Stone Soup

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] 10 Smart
- [R] Bell's Knees

Best restaurant to take the kids

- [W] Al's French Frys
- [R] American Flatbread

Best place to get late-night food

- [W] Kountry Kart Deli
- [R] Ahli Baba's Kabob Shop

Best pizza (restaurant)

- [W] American Flatbread
- [R] Bitz Me Organic Pizza

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Positive Pie II
- [R] Picasso Pizzeria & Lounge



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FOOD & DRINK

Best burger outside Chittenden County Burger Barn

Food carts and trailers are all the rage now but when KARENTHIN COLACETI and JASON GRABEL opened their cart in Jeffersonville in 2007, good mobile food was a tough concept to sell.

Their bright red trailer with a Hollister-painted roof doesn't travel anymore. It remains located in a corner of 11 Shores with New Orleans & Windows and Cambridge Cutters. But Burger Barn is now a Lake-to-Cloudy stage with an exotic menu that has grown to include 35 different burgers. All made with beef from nearby Boyden Farms or from others' orders, organic potato salad, Craving jalapeño beans, bacon and a little mayo. It's delicious. Some of them are really messy too, with lettuce or chili. It's so fun to watch people eat them.

SEVEN DAYSIE: Give you ever come up with a burger this quirky to serve?

KARENTHIN COLACETI: No. I'd say all of them work very well together. The Nutty Bear started as a special item now it's our most popular burger. It has cheese, maple-crusted walnuts, bacon and a little mayo. It's delicious. Some of them are really messy too, with lettuce or chili. It's so fun to watch people eat them.

ALICE LEVITT



Best snack bar

Joe's Snack Bar

Joe's Snack Bar opened in Arden in 1950 and has been a summer staple ever since, even inspiring a children's book called *Arden! Arden!*, Joe's Dog by Vermont author-illustrator Tracy Campbell Pearson. The energetic JOE ROTUNDO died in 2010, but his legacy lives on each summer at the snack bar where his wife, MARILYN RIZZOLINI, still serves up homemade hot dogs glistening with greasy goodness and of course, creamers.

SEVEN DAYSIE: How much oil do you use through in a summer?

MARILYN RIZZOLINI: Pound-wise about 10,000 pounds a summer. [Laughs] We change our fryers a lot.

SACHA LAMM



SEVEN DAYSIES 2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Best pizza (delivery)

- [W] Leonardo's Pizza
[BU] Bite Me Organic Pizza

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Posture Pin II
[BU] Picasso Pizzeria & Lounge

Best Vermont cheese

- [W] Cabot
[BU] Shelburne Farms

Best burger

- [W] Farmhouse Tap & Grill
[BU] Slay Burgers

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Burger Barn
[BU] Kismet

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FOOD & DRINK



Best Mexican/Latin restaurant & best to-go lunch outside Chittenden County **Mad Taco**

Just two years ago, Mexican food in central Vermont was, ge nerally limited to nachos and jalapeño poppers. Then the Mad Taco opened in Waterford. And a little more than a year later, co-owner **ADEY NAGY** turned up with the **THREE POINT TACO DOUGH** bakes to open a-Mex in Montpelier. The result was a hot and spicy revolution.

We're not kidding about the heat. Both Mad Taco locations experiment with an ever-changing arsenal of hot sauces — some sooty — flavored with everything from carrots to chocolate.

The sauces might be best appreciated on the pork tortas, a hammy-tortilla roll stacked with smoky chunks of well-marinated pork along with fiery but creamy and spicy

mesquite, creamy avocado and tangy cabbage slaw. And there's not a nacho in sight.

SEVEN DATES: Has the lucha libre (Mexican wrestling) theme at the Westfield location ever started up an impenetrable contest?

JOEY NAGY: One yes. After a very strenuous night, my chef and I had a nice little wrestling match. (Inside) I won it, but I went at it. I'm not at liberty to say who won.

ALICE LEVITT

SEVEN DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Best food cart/truck

- [W] Hong's Chinese Dumplings
[PL] Misery Loves Co.

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Simba's Truck

Best snack bar

- [W] Joe's Snack Bar
[PL] Bozeman Bus

Best Vermont craft brewer

- [W] Switchback
[PL] Alchemist

Best Vermont winery

- [W] Boyden Valley Winery
[PL] Shelburne Vineyard

Best Vermont spirit

- [W] WhistlePig Straight Rye Whiskey
[PL] Caledonia Spirits Bar Hill gin and vodka

Best bar

- [W] Three Needs
[PL] St. Albans Pub & Whiskey Room

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Three Penny Taproom
[PL] Blackback Pub & Fly Shop

Best place to get coffee

- [W] Huddy Waters
[PL] Uncommon Grounds

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Capitol Grounds
[PL] Green Mountain Coffee Visitor Center & Cafe

Best bakery

- [W] Mirabelles
[PL] August First

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Red Hen Bakery & Cafe
[PL] La Brioche

FOOD & DRINK

Best Vermont spirit WhistlePig Straight Rye Whiskey

WhistlePig Straight Rye Whiskey is tucked down a winding dirt road in sleepy Shaftsbury, but its provincial surroundings belie the no-nonsense nature of Vermont's favorite spirits company. Under the guidance of charismatic, hard-charging owner RAJ PETER BHAKTA, and the expertise of a master distiller formerly of Maker's Mark, the company roared to some impressive awards after hitting shelves two years ago — including the highest-ever rating for rye whiskey from Wine Enthusiast.

Seven days reached Bhakta in Scotland, where he was touring and meeting distilleries. "Studying how these guys do it, with a rye on bottling them off course," says Bhakta. WhistlePig is currently doing Canadian rye whiskey but plans to plant 300 acres of rye in Shaftsbury this fall and celebrate the grand opening of its Vermont distillery next spring.

SEVEN DAYS: You've earned WhistlePig's parent company **GO AMERICA GO**. What does a good rye whisky have to do with patriotism?

RAJ PETER BHAKTA: Rye whisky became the whiskey of America during the American Revolution. In Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain boys, it would probably be drinking rye. In fact, George Washington was the biggest rye-whisky distiller in the country. It's our unfinished staircase to make the best rye in the world, and if it can't do it, America can do it.

KATHRYN FLAGG



Best new restaurant & best Mexican/Latin restaurant **El Gato Cantina**

El Gato preparador TERESA "TREES" BERTRAM grew up in California eating Mexican-American grandmother cooking. In August 2011, she brought that authentic Mexican style to Burlington, using local ingredients whenever possible but willing to "stay true to the food" with traditional spices and flavors. Her Church Street cantina charms out-of-towners (Mexican grilled corn), pernil, bacon tortillas and more than 80 house-infused liqueurs.

SEVEN DAYS: How do you distinguish "authentic" Mexican food from the rest out there?

TREES BERTRAM: You can always tell by the rice. If the rice is bad, it's not authentic. Salsas are very important, too. Sometimes you can just feel it. There's definitely a place for Mexican food where the chef comes in and puts a T-bone on it, and I think that's great, but this isn't that. I want really hot Mexican food here.

SACHA LEITH

SEVEN+DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Best non-chain place to buy groceries

- [W] City Market/Onion River Co-op
[R]U] Healthy Living Market & Cafe

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Hunger Mountain Co-op
[R]U] Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op

Best farmers' market vendor

- [W] Samson's Farm
[R]U] Rockwell Root Beer

Best wine seller

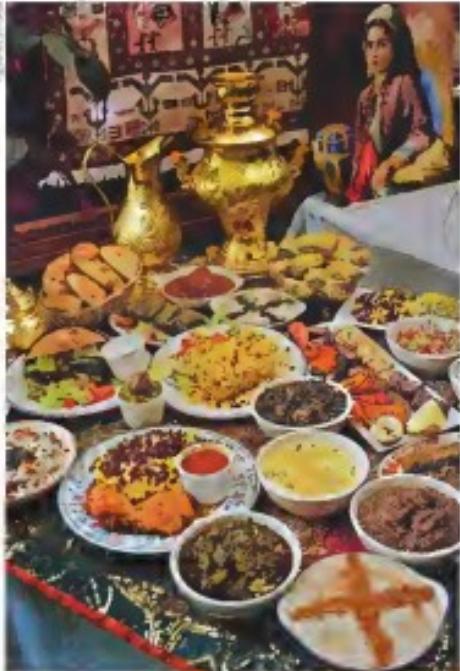
- [W] Chinese Traders & Wine Sellers
[R]U] DeGelus Wine

Best place to drink alone

- [W] The Other Place
[R]U] Three Needs

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Three Penny Taproom
[R]U] Charlie-O's



Best ethnic restaurant (non-Asian) Farah's Place

The stamp of a gold service. The scent of cumin fills the air as I walk from a crisp bacon chef-owner **FARAH CHALAKIAN** works the grill in front preparing her chicken shashlik in a spicy marinade.

Since its opened in May 11, Burlington's only Persian restaurant has quickly built up a loyal following. The food is pure home cooking with a dash of magic. If service is a tad relaxed, it doesn't detract from the customer's punch.

Many of Chalakian's biggest fans love her Thursday-night buffet when she lays out a table with nearly every item from the menu, and diners pay \$15 each to partake. And a bad deal for all the ultra-perky, humorous waitstaff who add to the fun you can't miss.

SEVEN DAYS? Do you ever see people massively overeat at the Thursday-night buffet?

TARAH CHALAKIAN: Oh yeah. We don't weigh people or check how many glasses you have, but when people go out, some of the young people—my God! They come in and have three four five plates and they leave it!

Alice Littitz



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arts, enter tainment & recrastination

There's one thing we learned from voters' responses to this section: It's that we really ought to plan a trip to **BARTON ISLAND**. This state park, which is only accessible by boat, didn't win the year's Best Vermont park—but that honor went to Burlington's **OAKLEIDGE PARK** and Montpelier's **HUBBARD PARK**. But voters kept mentioning the island as if it were hidden gold. One person gave the vote to "Oakledge, because I don't want people to know about Barton Island." Sorry, folks, the secret's out.

For a different kind of hidden gem, see our ranking of finding a couple sights at the gorgeous **INN AT TREVILLEBURN FARMS**, which earned a Daytime this year for best Vermont inn or B&B. Really, we'd like an excuse to stop at any of the contenders in this category: the **MILLARD STREET INN**, the **ESSEX GREEN MOUNTAIN INN** and the **PITCHER INN**.

Each year we wonder whether it will be beer or jazz? The **WEMONT BREWERS FESTIVAL** and the **WEMONT DISCOVER JAZZ FESTIVAL** have alternately won the Daytime for best Vermont festival over the last several years. This year, voters opted for beer—but just barely. Jazz Fest was only two votes behind. Overall Chittenden County, the **WEMONT MAPLE FESTIVAL**, at St. Albans took home the gold, er, Daytime.

Congrats to Burlington's biggest buzzout, **RADIO BEAN**, which finally got some recognition for its live music. The North Winooski Avenue bar has never quite lived up to its **NETCRAFT**—until now. Radio Bean pulled in almost 140 more votes this year to snag the Daytime for best small local music hot spot. Outside Chittenden County, the honor went to Montpelier's **BLACK DOOR**.

Singer-songwriter **JOSHUA PANDA** has finally landed long-time darling **HYRA FLYNN**, who held onto her title as best up-and-coming musical performer long after she'd already up and come. But after she moved to New York City, Flynn voters finally let her go. "This is Pandu's show," writes Seven Days music editor Dan Bober in a 2010 review. "You'd be hard-pressed to find a more compelling front man in Burlington at the moment. And, e very given the leap he's already made, it's safe to say Joshua Panda is just getting started."

Burlington hip-hop group **LYNYRD CRIVELLI**, who seemingly came out of nowhere last year to snag both best Burlington Vermont band and best Vermont hip-hop artist/group, held onto both D-systers. But in the a-tiny-bit-consciously weird, we're crowned a new king: **NATHAN HARTSMITH**, with **ALEX REEF** the runner-up.

The love affair with Burlington jeweler **JENNIFER KASH** continues. Not only did she hold onto her local jewelry designer crown, she also snagged the title of overall-best Vermont craftspeople. In the latter category, self-described midscientist and clay artist **JOHN BRICKELS** came in a close second.

When it comes to locally designed clothes...most voters turn to St. Albans's **ANDREA MUSKE**. But the numbers speak a worth checking out: **NEW DUDS**, **MIDDLE'S THREADS**, **WHERE DESIGNS** and **FESTIVE INK DESIGNS**.

MEGAN JAMES



Best local record label **Big Heavy World**

Everyone needs a bigger fan. And in Winooski, the giddy teenager at the front rows Big Heavy World, which has been archiving and preserving local music since 1998. In addition to releasing annualish compilations of Vermont-made music, the nonprofit organizes concert programs and sometimes projects with related groups such as the **RAHABOTS** and the **VERMONT MUSIC LIBRARY**. In short, Big Heavy World acts as an advocate, educator, promoter and—that's all I'll say on you—there.

SEVEN DAYS: Using exclusively front-of-the-line vinyl records, create the ultimate Vermont supergroup.
JIM LECKBIE DIRECTOR: Here's my ambient post-metal/surf-jazz supergroup: drums **TEDDY PLUVIA**, guitar **BILL MULLINS** (ex-guitar), **ADAM BERGESSON** (drums), **RONALD HAUFF** (bassoon), **CHRIS STECHER** (vocals) and **EXIGE** (bass).
BLUESCAVY vocals **GABRIELLE DOUGLAS**, **MARYSE SMITH** and **BERNIE SAMBORS** (backing vocals). **SWEET ETC.** **KATE MEHNER** (**CRACKWHORE**) and **TIM LAUREN** (**JAY GWIN**).
DAN ROLLES

Flynn 2012-13



Highlights

Broadway National Tour:
"West Side Story"

Trisha Brown Dance
Company

Rocky Skaggs
& Kentucky Thunder

Chick Corea & Gary Burton
with the Harlem String Quartet

Treasured Stories by Eric Carle

Shaolin Warriors

The Improvised
Shakespeare Company

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
with Wynton Marsalis

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

John Lithgow

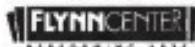
Mike Birbiglia

The Jeffrey Ballot

Broadway National Tour: "Heir"

MOMIX: "Botanica"

Broadway National Tour:
"Greasegirls"



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104.7



Chris Hansen

Best public golf course**Rocky Ridge Golf Club**

It's a nice Vermont golf course that isn't least scenic in our view. Rocky Ridge Golf Club's summer players can hit more tee-up shots in a few minutes of it than Hitting Range 116 in St. George. The course plays longish at just over 6,000 yards with a 72 per end and above-average slope rating. But golfers of all abilities — even those who don't know what a slope rating is — appreciate the course's wide-open fairways, reasonable rates and the only clubhouse staff.

SEVEN DAYS: What was the worst just shot you ever saw on your course? Nothing doesn't count.

ED COLEMAN GENERAL MANAGER AND HEAD GOLF PRO: "I saw a guy hit a golf ball between his legs that went off a tee marker and actually ricocheted and hit his partner. That's the worst shot I've ever seen. I didn't know it was physically possible."

ERIK ESKOLSEN

Best day trip with the kids**The Pump House Indoor Water Park at Jay Peak**

Since Jay Peak's 50,000-square-foot \$20 million indoor water park opened in December 2011, roughly 200,000 people have splashed,滑行ed and shot through its 64-degree water. Its signature feature is Le-Chute, the world's only indoor Aquapod, which drops three brave individuals at once—pounding 40 feet per second—and the Double Diver's Flowerpot, a standing wave. As water park director, CHRIS STUART, oversees different sorts of fun.

SEVEN DAYS: So how many people have gotten stuck in La Chute?

CHRIS STUART (parent): Notably, one gallon stuck me out of 27 other people. Someone doesn't make it all the way around, even though no infrared people. He tries them every time and tries their legs. It's sort of an instinct to put your arms underneath. When those who come in it come out, they are very pleased and they can't stop giggling. Other than that, we're not really in network and they are invited. One kid has made twice gone to La Chute in a single day. We put him in the unofficial La Chute Hall of Fame.

SARAH TUFF

SEVEN + DAYSIES
2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS**Best large live-music venue**

- [W] Higher Ground
[RU] Flynn Center for the Performing Arts

Best small local-music hot spot

- [W] Radio Bean
[RU] Nectar's

DUTSIDER CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Black Bear
[RU] Bees Knees

Best up-and-coming Vermont musical performer

- [W] Joshua Pandis
[RU] Kat Wright

Best unsigned Vermont band

- [W] Lyngistic Civilians
[RU] Vermont Joy Parade

Best Vermont hip-hop artist/group

- [W] Lyngistic Civilians
[RU] Azcatl

Best local record label

- [W] Big Heavy World
[RU] State & Main Records

Best Vermont standup comedian

- [W] Nathan Hartwick
[RU] Alex Nat

Best club DJ

- [W] Craig Mitchell
[RU] DJ A-Dog

Best Vermont cartoonist

- [W] Doug Nap
[RU] James Kochalka

Best Vermont craftsperson

- [W] Jennifer Kahn
[RU] John Brinkels

Best local clothing designer

- [W] Andrea McBride (Galaaan)
[RU] Nine Duds





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Summer's Last Splash

Inside the August issue
of Kids VT, you'll find:

- Daytrips to the Great Escape and the Burlington waterfront
- Habitat: Living spaces we love
- Balancing career and family: Cheryl Hanna sounds off

Read
PARENTS



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Best Vermont inn or B&B The Inn at Shelburne Farms

It doesn't have air conditioning or A/C. It does have equine interiors designed for a Vanderbilt heiress: a library, a formal parlor, daily tea with tiny sandwiches and hamantaschen baked goods — and an acclaimed town-to-table restaurant. Guests who tire of the sprawling brick manse — if that's possible — can leave the nearby trails for walking trails and 1,000-acre working farm. A stay at the inn may make you feel like a scion of the Gilded Age, but it supports a renewed thinking mission. Shelburne Farms is currently celebrating its 40th year as an educational nonprofit run by the descendants

of WILLIAM SEWARD and LILA VANDERBILT WEBB (who built the estate) and devoted to sustainable land stewardship.

SEVEN DAYS: What do guests anything they like most about staying at the inn?

ALEX WEBB: PEOPLE. People who love it. They love coming to Shelburne Farms. We don't have a lot of the amenities that most places do, so we have to have people who enjoy something beyond the immediate comforts that we've got here to offer. ... We think it's a benefit of place to enjoy.

SD: Do you see any ghosts?

AW: [Laughs.] Of course not. Any kind of experiences from the beyond have been thoroughly debunked.

MARGOT HARRISON

SEVEN DAYSIES 2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Best local jewelry designer

- [W] Jennifer Kahn
- [RU] Timothy Grannis

Best art gallery

- [W] BCA Center
- [RU] Frog Hollow

Best movie theater

- [W] Merrill Rose
- [RU] Majestic 10

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Savoy
- [RU] Big Picture Theater

Best Vermont festival

- [W] Vermont Brewers Festival
- [RU] Burlington Discover Jazz Festival

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Vermont Maple Festival
- [RU] Rhinofest Music Festival

Thanks for Voting!

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Best Vermont standup comedian Nathan Hartwick

Over the last few years, Nathan Hartwick has been instrumental in building the standup scene in Burlington and beyond. He founded The Vermont Comedy Club, a one-stop shop resource for all things comedic in the state, and was the 2011 winner of the prestigious **HIGHER GROUND COMEDY BATTLE** (and a 2012 finalist) earlier this year. He's also won the few comedy and actor **NATHALIE MILLER** founder **SPARK ARTS**, a Burlington performing-arts studio that offers classes and workshops in both stand-up and improv comedy.

SEVENTH DAYES, You're stranded on a desert island with Dame Cook, Daniel Tosh and Carson Top, with time to visit each. Who gets eaten first?

NATHAN HARTWICK: Probably me. I don't run around giving natural garters the "Super Finger." Dame would smile adorably while telling nap jokes to herself. Carson Top would be razzing the air from two bald coots and a pair of dress shoes. I would likely die of exhaustion. If not, I imagine these three would taste like fine gins, smoked salmon and Sang, respectively!

GAB ROLLES

SEVEN DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Best local theater company

- [W] Lyrick Thesatre Company
 [RJL] Spielplatz Cabaret

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Lost Nation Theater
 [RJL] Bread and Puppet Theater

Best performing-arts venue

- [W] Flynn Center for the Performing Arts
 [RJL] Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center

Best free Wi-Fi hotspot

- [W] Starbucks
 [RJL] Uncommon Grounds

Best Vermont park

- [W] Galleyedge Park
 [RJL] Waterfront Park

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Hubbard Park
 [RJL] Groton State Forest

Best public golf course

- [W] Rocky Ridge Golf Club
 [RJL] Kwnwissa Golf Club

Best ski/ride slope

- [W] Stowe Mountain Resort
 [RJL] Smugglers Notch

Best cross-country ski area

- [W] Trapp Family Lodge
 [RJL] Catamount Outdoor Center

Best in-state weekend getaway

- [W] Stowe
 [RJL] Jay Peak

Best day trip with the kids

- [W] The Pump House Indoor Water Park at Jay Peak
 [RJL] ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center

Best Vermont inn or B&B

- [W] The Inn at Shelburne Farms
 [RJL] Willard Street Inns

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MEDIA

Le'ts hear it for **DARREN PERRON**. The **WCAX** anchor has a lot going for him, starting with that great rhyming name. Votes in this survey were complicated by his bar: "Darren Perron can work an unfeasted banchick," one person e-mailed. But it wasn't his cool shirt earned the D apollo this year; it was his newscast. Perron is the first broadcaster in Daysie's history to win the title of best Vermont journalist. Congrats, Darren.

But voters also love runner-up **CHRIS BOHJALIAN**, who writes an edgy column in the *Burlington Free Press* and has won the Digger for best Vermont novelist every single year of this contest. This year, we noticed that category — an offshoot, Chris. We just thought we'd try to try something new. But apparently, where there are Daysies, there is Bohjalian.

And, of course, there is **TERI MESSNER**. This year's local news/journalism category seemed to be all about sex appeal. One person voted for WCAX's **JAN OLIVER** — her hot! Another person voted for FO-X 149's **KAREN JORDAN**, my husband's girlfriend!?

But the Daysies is and wills: WPTZ's **Tami "The Mess" Messner**. Or was that **Tami "Never Messy" Messner**? Chalk it up, here is Thayer's Duplex belongs to "Tami Fooking Messner." Based on the number of pet names Vermonters have for this mom, it's safe to say Messner is not losing her title any time soon. Runner-up **SARAH SADOWSKI** of WCAX came in about 400 votes behind, with the **EHN ON THE DAY** team pulling up third.

WCAX still dominates the best local TV newscast category, but Thayer — or this column — was recognized for its outstanding Twitter feed, **#WCAX**. No other

popular feeds: #TYLERMACHADO, #SEVEN_DAYS, #THEBERNIEALLY, and #SENATORS.

Congrats to **VTDIGGER.DIGG**, which isn't a blog, but won the Digger for the category no. 1 entry. (Last year, Digger founder **ANNE GALLOWAY** was our best blogging Actual Blogger, while **Digger**'SLLERY and the **HOUSE OF LEMMY** were close behind.)

Voters still love their **VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO** more than any other spot on the dial. It at they are, **ZEN RIDERS**, program director at the **PONTE**, credits to victory our language Daysie winners **INTERPLEX**'s cheeky jocks extraordinaire **JAMIE RAVATTO** and **CHARLIE PAULING**. Morris' colleague **MIKE LUMPKIN** came in third, with **WVVM'S BU LUMPKIN** not far behind.

MEGAN JAMES

Best Vermont journalist **Darren Perron**

A Daysie award may not take center stage if Darren Perron's even glowing trophy collection, which already contains has Emmy nine Edward R. Murrow Awards and 12 Associated Press Awards. Perron says he's "probably very surprised and excited" about nephews. The local front...

Perron, 38, is the first Daysie winner chosen as a New England top journalist. The North East Kingdom native started as an intern at WCAX in 1994 while still at Castleton State College, then landed a part weekend gig the following year. Perron makes it look effortless, but admits he's had his blunders.

SEVEN DAYS: What's your most embarrassing, mind-blowing moment?

DARREN PERRON: It was the day I ran out of breath on air. This was 13 or 14 years ago and I was still a newbie ... I thought I had two minutes to run a story update because a story was running before mine ... when I heard our producer page [online] go in front of the camera! Twenty seconds! So I had to cut down two full sets of stories. My tie was sticking out, sideways because the microphone cable got stuck on a chair, and all I could get out was, "Good ... morning ... Eleven." We got about 10 messages that day asking if the boy who had the asthma attack on the morning show was OK.



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Best local radio DJ Zeb Norris

If you're a regular **POINT** listener, chances are you've heard Zeb Norris' voice in your dreams — it's just that memorable. Norris has been working in radio since 1980s, where he was a KYTV's *Barbara Stanwyck "I'm a Teacher, You're a Mother" contest* — two weeks later he was hired. Later Norris was the first Bay Area commentator for KTFB to play Metallica. "They wouldn't give any keys to the party days," he says. Counterpoint Radio Union called Norris unusually so to thank him. As program director at the Point, he's still discovering great new-talent. His recent favorites include Pittr & the Panthers, Mayday, Hawthorne, Bitcoin Trapper, Peter Foxes and the Avett Brothers.

MEGAN JAMES: Are there any songs in the current Pearl rotation that you currently hate?

ZEB NORRIS: Haha, is a winning record! But, I am not enjoying John Fullbright. I don't like him though and so does our music director. **MEGAN JAMES:** So even though not like meeting oldies radio to me, since we're a college/university programmed station, we play him.

MJ: Who's the most recent band to beat you off air in town? What and why?
ZN: I just crashed on太极鼓 musical woman [who] I met through work pretty easily. Only then didn't happen with KT Tunstall... until I jokingly kissed her hand! That's when the perfume got to me. It was expensive but it was worth it. I wish I help was

MEGAN JAMES

SEVEN DAYSIES 2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Best Vermont journalist

- [W] Darren Perino
- [BU] Chris Bohjalian

Best local TV newscast

- [W] WCAK
- [BU] WPTZ

Best local meteorologist

- [W] Tom Nessner
- [BU] Gary Sadowski

Best local radio DJ

- [W] Zeb Norris
- [BU] Jamie Scovotto & Chantal Pauline

Best Vermont radio station

- [W] Vermont Public Radio
- [BU] The Point

Best Vermont blog

- [W] VTDigest.org
- [BU] Seven Days Blurt

Best Vermont Twitter feed

- [W] @Vermont
- [BU] @Seven_Days

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Best florist Kathy & Company Florist

KATHY SPEAR of her shop, **K**athy & Company Florist, is tucked behind **BEDFORD**, **HOUSE** on Colchester Avenue, but pretty far north from most of the floral displays outside. At least in summer. In early autumn, as the colorful **fallen leaves** descend, visitors know for her creative sculptural designs. Spear says her personal favorite in arrangements are inspired by elegant Japanese or French — though she'd happily indulge customers who want an extravagant bouquet. Kathy & Co takes phone and online orders and, as a member at the International Florist's Association, can have an arrangement sent nearly around the globe. Spear assures that giving flowers isn't a one-way street; gender wise, "Women give men flowers too," she says. "There are so many occasions to give flowers."

SEVEN DAYS: What do you wish people knew more about when they ordered flowers on the phone?

KATHY SPEAR: Today's society is sort of fast-food society... people expect us to have every flower that's on the website at all times, and get them over and out without the hour... People aren't always flexible.

SD: Have you noticed any manner when buying flowers for women who are not their wives?

KS: [Laughs.] Oh, I'm not going there! We're like the price!

PAMELA POLSTON

services & stuff

Vegetarian voters finally got the better of them this year. In the books for hot tubs, scores, **CAMPING SHOES** overtook **STELLA MAE** by 20-odd votes. But outside Chittenden County, the **SHOE HORN ROUTINE** retained its glory — the Moosekicker shop has won the Trophy every year since 2000.

Another Moosekicker store is having its moment in the sun: **ZUTANO** beat out Burlington's **BARBARIAN** with the most votes overall for best children's clothing. And the capital city's **WIGGLES** **MOUNTAIN TIPS** continue to reign supreme over all other area toy stores — even **TOYS R' US**.

Sprinkling of local businesses is finding up-to-date, the small but mighty **CROW BOOKSHOP** in Burlington claimed **BARNES & NOBLE** for the second consecutive year. What will happen next year? **PHOENIX BOOKS** has had time to settle into the scene and become a contender? That will tell.

SHILLING'S DOGIE DAYCARE won its second D zone for best pet daycare, but **PLAY DOG PLAY** was nipping at its heels. The **CRATE ESCAPE** was close, too.

There's no beating it: Burlington's **ADVANCE MUSIC** and Montpelier's **SYNTESIS**, when it comes to musical instrument stores, but we were preched to see **VERMONT VIOLINS** & **THE BURLINGTON VIOLIN SHOP** come in third, followed by Stetson's **ELLIS MUSIC**.

Planning a wedding in Vermont? Daysies voters suggest

tying the knot at **SHIREBURN FARMS** or the **INN AT THE ROUND BARN FARM** in Waterford. If those are booked, consider up **STONE MOUNTAIN LODGE** or the **OLD LANTERN** in Charlotte are pretty sweet, too. If you're going to say yes to the dress, do it at **longtime Daysie winner FRESH BRIDAL ROUTINE** in Essex. Just right to ensure a **SEWLY YOUNG BRIDE** in Burlington. **FRESH FLOWERS** come from Burlington's **KATHY & COMPANY FLORIST**.

After three years winning the Daysie for best place to do your banking, **MERCHANTS BANK** finally fell behind longtime issuer up **NEW ENGLAND FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**. To bank over in third, and right behind it is the **VERMONT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION** and **VERMONT STATE EMPLOYEE CREDIT UNION**. Could that be the year of the credit union?

We got plenty of suggestions for where to get car repairs — from **PILATOFF'S SHED** to **SVS** to the **AUTOMASTER** — but **GILCHRIST GARAGE** was the clear champion. Hey, it always helps to have an adorable, memorable name.

Indeed, one of the best parts of tallying Daysies ballots is discovering local stores with awesome names, even if they don't win. One that this year, South Hero antique store **JUNK & DISMISSEY**. Consider this your honorary Daysie, SGD, for weird business names.

MEGAN JAMES

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SERVICES & STUFF



Best place for car repairs **Girlington Garage**

When CINDY POLLITT started Girlington Garage three years ago, she knew one need starting the day: She was starting a business during an economic downturn and had to find a way working into a field traditionally dominated by male mechanics. "I felt inspired to create a women-owned garage where customers—especially women—wouldn't worry about getting ripped off if they didn't know the difference between their oil and transmission fluid."

Now three years in, her focus is honing Girlington Garage's repair and maintains the aesthetics of Vermont's roads—revising subtle as their specialty cars. Pollitt and her co-located team are an enthusiastic cluster of women and men who have about the garage's carryover working room and patients, knowing exactly what needs to be done.

SEVEN DAYS: What difference does being a women-owned garage make?

CINDY POLLITT: I think that people truly deserve a lot more. My experience being a woman as a customer has influenced the way we deal with customers quite a bit. We try to spend a lot of time and effort making sure that customers understand exactly going on with their car and why. If we spend a lot more time without our customers than a lot of shops out there do,

SEVEN+DAY SIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Best women's casual clothing

- [W] Sweet Lady Jane
[RU] Salaam

Best women's evening wear

- [W] Eco Clothes for Women & Men
[RU] Sweet Lady Jane

Best men's clothing

- [W] Michael Kohrs
[RU] Salaam/The Mens Store

Best shoe store

- [W] Danform Shoes
[RU] Stella Mae

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] The Shoe Horn Boutique

Best vintage/secondhand clothing

- [W] Old Gold
[RU] Second Time Around

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Getup Vintage

Best children's clothing

- [W] Zutano
[RU] Isabeau

Best eyeglasses store

- [W] Eyes of the World
[RU] Lenscrafters

Best jewelry store

- [W] Pernyendes
[RU] Zinnia

Best beauty-product purveyor

- [W] Mirror Mirror
[RU] MAC Cosmetics

Best pet daycare

- [W] Gulliver's Doggie Daycare
[RU] Play Dog Play

Best pet-supply store

- [W] Pet Food Warehouse
[RU] PetSmart

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An advertisement for KEEN shoes. It features a woman in a green t-shirt holding up a grey and white striped KEEN shoe. The background is a collage of outdoor scenes including people, animals, and landscapes. The text "NEW from KEEN!" is prominently displayed in the lower right corner.

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An advertisement for Danform Shoes. It features a large yellow stick figure with a smiling face, holding a large white daisy flower. The background is a bright blue sky with a few clouds. The text "THANKS for the VOTES!" is written in large, bold, white letters across the top. The Danform Shoes logo is at the bottom.

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SERVICES & STUFF



Best eyeglasses store Eyes of the World

FOR THE LAST DECADE, DANNY THOMAS has been Seven Days' readers' unanimous "Best eyeglasses store" for 10 years running, and the naming vote continues in 2012. Obviously customers don't trust their glasses-and-sunglasses repairer Le Thomas just because of his Jerry Garcia noodling — a nod to the Grateful Dead song of the same name — or the Jerry Garcia guitar noodling that always seems to be playing in the background. But Thomas concedes that "Eyes of the World" has more than appeal like the name his father gave the business when he opened it in Columbus, Ohio, in 1948. Optical service

KENNY GAYES If you weren't a Greenbeet, what name would you have chosen? Did you have other ideas?

DANNY THOMAS Not really. That was the name I had in my mind for about 30 years ... But a song that was on my car on the way to Valleyview "In Your Eyes" — which is a song by Peter Gabriel, done by a Portsmouth capella group, it's a wonderful version. Really quite nice.

KEN PICARD

Best bank/credit union New England Federal Credit Union

If you measured a financial institution's popularity by the number of Occupy Bankrupters protesters loitering outside, CITIZENS BANK would surely take the cake. But in this year's Daywars — after years of lagging in the runner-up slot — New England Federal Credit Union headed the top honor from MERCHANTS BANK.

"Of course, given the state-of-the-economy ruling that credit unions can't use the word 'bank' or 'banking' in their advertising, we're a little puzzled about where to call that thing we do when we deposit ... or more likely ... withdraw our cash from New England Federal. So we put the question to the banks, whom credit unions' senior marketing executive, CINDY HIGGINS,

SEVEN DAYS If you have the word "banking" in your name, should it be used?

CINDY HIGGINS You're considering terms of transactions. It can't be one word, though.

SD Where do you do your banking?

CH I conduct my financial business at New England Federal Credit Union.

PHOTO BY KAREN KUEHN
FOR SEVEN DAYS

SEVEN DAYSIES 2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Best toy store

W Woodbury Mountain Toys
R/U Toys 'R' Us

Best musical-instrument store

W Advance Music
R/U Vermont Wolfs & the Burlington Violin Shop

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

W Guitar Sam
R/U Ellis Music

Best bookstore

W Crow Bookshop
R/U Barnes & Noble

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

W Bear Pond Books

Best housewares store

W Homeport
R/U Kiss the Cook

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

W Capitol Kitchen

Best furniture store

W Burlington Furniture Company
R/U Homeport



PAUL HUNZIK

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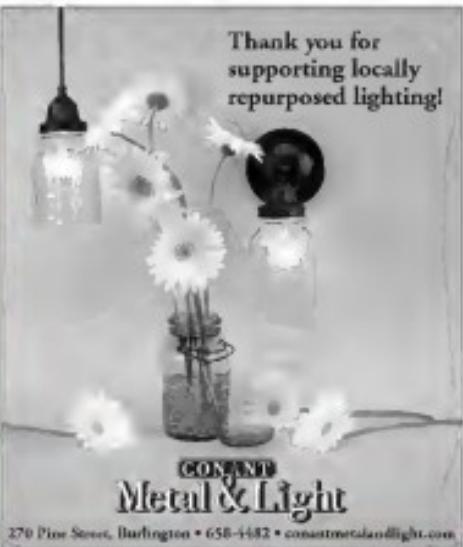


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Best camera store outside Chittenden County

Green Mountain Camera

When BOB and JOHN STE. MARIE opened Green Mountain Camera in Waterbury Center in 2005, the father-son team ignored conventional wisdom: choosing not to offer in-house film processing. Instead, they focused on building an extensive inventory of new, used and unique cameras, binoculars, telescopes and other optics. The pair brought their old film暗室 equipment to add to their stock. "The store is started entirely by word of mouth," says Ste. Marie, so customers can count on getting advice from people who've really used them.

SEVEN DAYS: What are the most important features of a new camera to splurge on and which bells and whistles do amateurs do without?

JOHN STE. MARIE: Lenses remain a good and fast money to invest. Not all memory cards are built the same, and not all of them operate at the same speed. We find most customers are using the video feature of their digital cameras. The lenses for digital SLR cameras are an investment, but a worthwhile one. Digital cameras change frequently, but the lenses continue to be compatible with future generations of these cameras. A good lens will give you better noticeable results right away.



INDIAN JAMES

SEVEN+DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Best antique/secondhand store

- [W] Argos & the Little Pear ReStore

Best lighting store

- [W] Conant Metal & Light
- [RU] Lighting House

Best camera store

- [W] LeZot Camera Center
- [RU] PhotoGarden

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Green Mountain Camera
- [RU] Bob's Camera & Video

Best place to buy a computer

- [W] Small Dog Electronics
- [RU] Best Buy

Best local web developer

- [W] Union Street Media
- [RU] Eternity Web Development

Best bridal shop

- [W] Fleur Bridal Boutique
- [RU] Sewly Yours Bridal

Best Vermont wedding venue

- [W] Shelburne Farms
- [RU] The Old Lantern

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] The Inn at the Round Barn Farm
- [RU] Stowe Mountain Lodge

Best florist

- [W] Kirby & Company Florist
- [RU] Chaspells Florist

Best outdoor outfitter

- [W] Outdoor Gear Exchange
- [RU] Eastern Mountain Sports

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Cham River Sports

Best bike shop

- [W] Old Spokes Home
- [RU] Slo Rock

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Cham River Sports

Best auto dealer

- [W] Autometer
- [RU] Heritage Toyota/Ford

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SERVICES & STUFF



Best hair salon

Indigo

Burlington salon Indigo has been in business on Superior Street since 1990. Its owner, **STEPHEN REVLAQUAM**, has been involved in the hair industry since 1978. A lot has changed since Stony and that weirdo on television, Revlaquam notes. And not just styles but the workforce too. Thirty years ago, many young adults considered themselves a lost, ditchy bunch, he says. "Now, we've got better employees coming in with college degrees." Revlaquam, who employs 32, places a premium on ongoing education for his team — there's a lot to keep up with in this "growth" industry.

SEVEN DAYS: What is the worst thing people do that damages their hair?

STEPHEN REVLAQUAM: Trying to do their own hair [color] at home. The chemicals really dry it out.

SD: Why does society have such a thing against women with gray hair?

SR: Oh, we get that all the time! I don't know really. I guess everyone is looking for youth. Personally I love a head of white hair.

PAMELLA POLSTON

SEVEN DAYSIES 2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Best place for car repairs

- [M] Grafton Garage
[R/U] McCaffrey's Sunoco

Best real estate agency

- [M] Colwell Banker Hickok Boardman
[R/U] Lang McLaughlin Spira

Best garden center

- [M] Gardner's Supply
[R/U] Claussen's Florist & Greenhouse

Best bank/credit union

- [M] New England Federal Credit Union
[R/U] Merchants Bank

Best place to buy a pipe

- [M] Full Tank
[R/U] Bern Gallery

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [M] Stash N' Store Smoke Shop

Best adult toy store

- [M] Good Stuff
[R/U] Image

Best hair salon

- [M] Indigo
[R/U] Stephen & Jumps

Best place to get body art

- [M] Yankee Tattoo
[R/U] Jade Lotus

Best gym/health club

- [M] The Edge
[R/U] Planet Fitness

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [M] First in Fitness

Best Vermont spa

- [M] Stowe Lake Mountain Resort & Spa
[R/U] Spa at Tynoch

Best manicure/pedicure

- [M] Toesies
[R/U] Jennie Nell & Spa

**Best place to buy a pipe outside
Chittenden County**

Stash N' Stowe Smokeshop

Stash N' Stowe Smokeshop probably isn't a household name to most Vermonters — yet. But this year's Best Smoke Shop outside Chittenden County has already earned a smoke recognition like no other. SDS owner SARAH COOKSON is married to JEFFREY B., a Burlington-based entrepreneur at Tiki whose glasswork ranges from the classic to the colorful to the insanely cool. They recently sold one of his walls pieces at "Tobolks," that now carries a real water fountain for \$49.00.

Coincidence is, now, the fact that new smoke shop, which opened just last year and is sourced primarily by Vermont artists, has finally been discovered by Seven Days' puffers. "I'm stoked!" site says on learning of the Dayles. "This is so cool."

SEVEN DAYS: Do customers ever give you shit for not actually being in Stowe?

SARAH COOKSON: It's funny. The tourists never realize it. Since I'm moving a mile away soon my husband asked, "Are you changing the name because you're going to be in Winooski?" I said, "We're in Winooski now."

SD: The Cabin Annex seems like an unlikely locale for a烟 shop.

SC: It's been great. We have eat, and we have all the幡 cheese and chocolate

KEN PICARD



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BONUS



We loved reading the responses to yesterday's bonus question, especially best hair on a local personality.

FIGHT DJ MIKE LUOMA kindly took home the Toyota for his wild, curly mane, and amateur slay god **TOHR MESSNER** earned runner-up for his perky blonde cr. up. But we loved this comment from one wise voter: "[WCAX anchor] KRISTEN CARLSON ... it's like ribbon candy."

"**MIGO (DIVERGENTE)** has probably won best 2' remarked another voter. And this goes down as a vote for **EYE OR THE SKY** guy STEVE MALESKI made us laugh: "If you've been to [VPR Eye on the Sky website], you'll wait."

CHLOSEA RESSLER from Burlington's **SECOND TIME AROUND** got a viral shout-out, added **GRACE POTTER**, **WCAX's** **DINA MULLER**, **NELSON'S** **JACK THURSTON** and, of course, **GABRIEL PERIN** and his "hundreds based Facebookish" Son **BRUNNIE SANDERS** came in for a, just above the **LIMAY SISTERS**, for his unmatched tuft of hair. And we're proud of

the lascivious looks of our own **PAMELA POLSTON**, **SHAN BOLLES**, **MATTHEW THORSEN** and **EVA SOLBERGER**, all of whom got votes.

Still, we didn't even have to know who voters were talking about to enjoy these hair comments: "Devon's what's around and used to work at Price Chopper," one person writes. "Really bald and the Price head for a while." We'll be keeping an eye out for you, Devon.

When it comes to happenin' hipster, most voters gave a collective groan. Many used the opportunity to pick on the tall-like-riking, skinty-jawed weenies who hang out in front of **RADIO BEAM**, which, frankly, we thought was a little mean. Highschoolers are people, too, folks.

The votes were scattered — nobody got more than 10. But **THIRTEAG** editor **REN SABLE** stopped the bus, followed by **Burlington** consultant **CHARLES "CHICKY" NEMKHAHN**. Congrats, guys!

MEGAN JAMES



Best hair on a local personality

Mike Luoma

You can hear Mike Luoma on the Point, where he's the music director and a midday DJ. You can buy his self-published science-fiction trilogy next to his pedicure and pick up his latest graphic novel from Eastern's Earthbound Comics. [Editor's Note: Luoma doesn't mind if that's a bit of a stretch.] He's a Vermont Catholic priest working superpowers into his believes and divine.]

And yet, this year seven days renders choose to recognize Luoma. Is he her? Admittedly it's an impressive resume. When he was younger, Luoma says, "I had to keep my hair short. And because of its coarseness, it never behaved... It kinda looked like a whale inside." After "Later when he radio career allowed him to let his hair grow, I straight. Maybe this is the way it's supposed to be," he says.

SEVEN DAYS: If your hair were a comic book character, who would it be?

MIKE LUOMA: It has different personalities on different days depending on the weather and other conditions. I thought of Spidey because it's sort of does its everything, and it's ready the why he's cool to carry. And then I thought of Spideman because the same artist (Paul McCauley) drew Spiderman for a while and... his wife was doing the same thing [as the crazy crowd]. The other comic-book guy I've imitated is [Marvelously smug] Watchmen's creator Alan Moore.

MARGOT KARRISON

Best and worst things to happen in Vermont in the last year

With all three **TROPICAL STORM ISABEL** — or as many respondents referred to it, “Isabel, you bitch!” — would be everybody’s pick for worst thing to happen in Vermont over the last year. But we were surprised when inspection revealed it the best thing, too.

What else did Vermonters name? The only response to it, the only Vermonters came together to rebuild their homes and communities.

The **Daysies** didn’t select other good things from last year’s list, either. Instead, it’s about things which many people loved — which complicated that this was the worst thing about last year. Vermont moved past **President BARACK OBAMA** — until last spring. The election of Burlington Mayor **MICHAEL WEINERBERG** and Gov. **PETER SHUMFLIN**, the ban on fracking, health care reform, and the **ALCHEMY** coming of **Henry Tappin**. Other favorites: **“Beverly vs. BEARIS CHIPOTLE** coming to Burlington and the opening of the **CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE**.

What else did Vermonters hate about last year? The murder of the young St. Johnsbury Academy teacher **MILISSA JENKINS**, the suicide at the **OCCUPY BURLINGTON** encampment, the grossosity of K-956, commer to **BTV** and the **BURLINGTON FREE PRESS**.

regret. Some people had addendum to their woes for Leanne often to hilarious effect, e.g., “Leanne and Justin Bieber?”

Still, for better or worse, that road defined us last year. On that most divisive subject, a diverse and assassinated bunch were in agreement: “Helping each other during Irene” was the best thing to happen last year, wrote one respondent. “How everyone pulled together,” wrote another. “Neighbors after Irene.” Writer one more: “How Adirondack year, since the storm has a Vt.-vagabond state, even reinforced that we live in one hell of a resilient and compassionate place.”

MEGAN JAMES



Hippest hipster Ben Sarle

With 27-year-old freelance photographer Ben Sarle, he had that friends were organizing an informal campaign to vote him the hippest hipster. The businated New York native took to Facebook to ward them off. “Winning that would totally be a nightmare,” he writes.

most sorry face?

While Sarle may not have the goofiest mustache, lightning pants or bullet-hug wheelchair, he’s certainly captured our instant hipster cred in **THREAD**, the community arts and culture magazine he founded last August. This month’s issue even includes a 12-page spread shot by Sarle called “SEVEN DAYSIES” that features a bunch of folks who will all qualify as numero uno in this category.

SEVEN DAYSIES isn’t campaigning not to be a hipster; it is going to be.

BEN SARLE—Well, what was the question? I was busy Instagramming my sell boy of PDR and trying to stay cool.

PAUL HERNANDEZ

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